

## **Letter sent to local governments along the I-81 corridor on Sept. 3, 2003**

No doubt you are aware that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is in discussions with two private teams about their proposals to improve Interstate 81 in Virginia. These discussions are under way through the Public Private Transportation Act of 1995 (PPTA), which allows agencies of the Commonwealth to procure services of private companies. We are using a step-by-step process to evaluate these proposals and come to a decision regarding the procurement of these services.

The next step in the process involves local affected jurisdictions, and that is why I am writing to you. Very shortly you will receive a detailed proposal from each team. (We at VDOT will receive the proposals, too.) Under the PPTA law, local affected jurisdictions have an opportunity to review and comment on these proposals within a 60-day period starting when the proposals are received.

We have requested the teams to submit Detailed Proposals by Sept. 5, 2003. Based on this schedule, the 60-day period for affected local jurisdictions to provide comments extends to Nov. 4, 2003. Please understand that your feedback is not required, although I would encourage you to review the proposals and let me know what you think.

To aid in your preparation of comments, I am enclosing two forms that you may find helpful. The format includes four areas we have determined to be critical to this stage of the PPTA evaluation process. Use of this format for your comments is optional, although the format will help us at VDOT organize the information we receive.

Regardless of how you chose to submit comments, I do ask that you review each proposal independently. Keep in mind that the PPTA process is simply a means to procure resources to provide requested services. Each proposal should be evaluated to determine whether or not it merits advancement to the next stage in the PPTA evaluation.

To guard against confusion, I want to be clear that the PPTA teams are asking for your comments on the *detailed proposals* they will send to you. This is not a request for a public hearing or a resolution or for debating the merits of one possible solution or another. If you use the format we have enclosed to guide you, then you will provide useful feedback to help us decide whether we should move one or both of these proposals to the next stage of evaluation in the PPTA process.

The PPTA evaluation process is completely separate from a thorough environmental review that we will launch along I-81. The environmental review will include a very important public participation component, and you and your constituents will have many formal and informal opportunities to give us additional feedback.

Thank you for taking the time to work with VDOT to make this PPTA evaluation process a success. Please feel free to call me at 804-786-4798 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Malcolm T. Kerley, P.E.

Copy: Mr. Pierce R. Homer  
Mr. Philip A. Shucet

***INTERSTATE 81 PPTA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT***  
***DETAILED PROPOSAL REVIEW COMMENTS FOR PROPOSAL BY***  
***FLUOR VIRGINIA, INC.***

Please evaluate this proposal independently of all other proposals.

- Are the proposed improvements compatible with any local comprehensive plans that exist for your locality?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES; \_\_\_\_\_ NO; Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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- Does this proposal, on its own merits, warrant consideration by VDOT's Commissioner for negotiation of a comprehensive agreement?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES; \_\_\_\_\_ NO; Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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- Are there portions of this proposal that create specific advantages and/or benefits for your locality?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES; \_\_\_\_\_ NO; Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Are there portions of this proposal that create specific disadvantages and/or drawbacks for your locality?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES; \_\_\_\_\_ NO; Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Are there any other comments you wish VDOT to consider? \_\_\_\_\_

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Please provide all comments by November 4, 2003, to the following address:

Mr. Malcolm T. Kerley, P.E.  
Chief Engineer for Program Development  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
1401 E. Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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***DETAILED PROPOSAL REVIEW COMMENTS FOR PROPOSAL BY***  
***STAR SOLUTIONS***

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